‘Halitai’ share tourism highlights learned. PAGE 2
HANMI occupancy at 43% in Sept. 2024. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 225

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Kilili pledges smooth transition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

King-Hinds

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said over the weekend that he has spoken with delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds and that he has pledged to do everything he can to help her make the transition so there is no gap in service to the people of the CNMI.

» Reaches out to delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds

The people have chosen King-Hinds to be the CNMI’s next representative in the U.S. Congress, said Sablan, who opted not to seek a historic

See KILILI on Page 4

Herman’s Family Fun Day finally pushes through

RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Children of all ages are all smiles taking a ride on Benki’s trackless during Herman’s Modern Bakery’s 80th anniversary Family Fun Day last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The weather finally cooperated in celebration of Herman’s Modern Bakery’s 80th anniversary Family Fun Day last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The event was originally scheduled for last Oct. 26, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Heman’s Modern Bakery sales and marketing manager Rudy Guerrero said he is grateful that the event was held on a beautiful day despite the rainy season.

“It’s unfortunate because of the storm, we had an original date but now, the weather is complying with us. So, we’re

See FUN Day on Page 4

Union advocates for legislative support of collective bargaining rights in CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/
Local 5335 Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union president Paul B. Sasamoto speaks during a recent union event.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The local 5335 Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union, which is a part of the International Association of Fire Fighters, has spent several weeks meeting with members of the local Legislature to gather support for the rights of public sector employees to unionize and collectively bargain.

In a press release from NMPFU president Paul B. Sasamoto last Monday, he said their union

See UNION on Page 4

Delegate-elect King-Hinds support MACS’ quest for qualifying certificate

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
A photo of one of the planes that will be a part of Marianas Air Connection Services’ fleet should they be granted a qualifying certificate and start providing regular inter-island air service.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds has expressed her support for J&P Holdings (CNMI) LLC’s application for a qualifying certificate that would exempt them from paying CNMI taxes so they can invest in their start-up aviation company, Marianas Air Connection Services, in order to provide inter-island air service in the CNMI.

In an interview with King-Hinds last week after she was named the victor in the CNMI delegate race following the

See DELEGATE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, announced that the new Toyota and Lexus Dealership and Service Center in Puerto Rico will open for business on Nov. 18, 2024, at 8am.
PAGE 8

NATION
President Joe Biden will host President-elect Donald Trump for a traditional postelection meeting in the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said Saturday.
PAGE 10

LIFESTYLE
Actor Tony Todd, known for his haunting portrayal of a killer in the horror film “Candyman” and roles in many other films and television shows, has died, his longtime manager confirmed. He was 69.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

'Halitai' share tourism highlights learned

Students of Hopwood Middle School were taught—and then successfully tested—about the Marianas tourism industry during an educational presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority on Nov. 6, 2024, at the school.

The annual school outreach aims to engage 4th graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with current information and activities highlighting the Marianas' primary economic driver. Following the presentation, several students volunteered to share various facts they had learned, including which country most visitors now come from, ways students can support tourism, the No. 1 activity visitors plan to do when visiting (enjoy nature), details of the ongoing MVA video contest "Show Us Your #MarianasAdventure," and more.

"Today's presentation provided students with an opportunity to learn about tourism, gain insight into the current situation of the CNMI, and explore ways they can contribute to making the Marianas a top travel destination for future tourists," said teacher Jonathan Sugatan.

The presentation also included an overview of the work the MVA, including marketing and its annual signature events such as Christmas in The Marianas next month, Rota Marathon in January, Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in February, and Saipan Marathon in March.

"It is important to educate our students on the importance of tourism to our islands and what ways they can contribute...by greeting our tourists showing the Håfa Adai and Tirow spirit, beautifying our beaches, and volunteering and participating in community events and projects," said Monica Pangelinan, a 7th grade Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies teacher and long-time advisor for the school MY WAVE Club.

MTEC

Students at Hopwood Middle School respond during a presentation about the Marianas tourism industry on Nov. 6, 2024, by Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda, right. Aranda and representatives of the Marianas Tourism Education Council presented at the school in Chalan Piao.

MTEC is a non-profit organization whose mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; to educate the public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Ada-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community.

The organization is also preparing for its annual MTEC Tourism Summit with school MY WAVE Clubs in January 2025.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CNMI
DFW invites K-12 students to the 2024 TEK Art Contest!
Open: September 25, 2024
Close: November 25, 2024
Theme:
Traditional Ecological Knowledge
13 winning artworks will be featured in their 2025 Art Calendar
For more information, please email cnmi.aquaticed@gmail.com or call (670) 664-6006
Scan the QR codes below for more details
Art Contest Website
Entry Form

In honor of our veterans, your bravery and dedication will never be forgotten.
Thank you
for your selfless service and unwavering courage.
FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF
CIC
Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
A TanHoldings Company
JP Center Ground Floor, Beach Road, Garapan Office
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m • www.centuryinsurancegroup.net
Guam +1(671) 648-0609 Saipan +1(670) 234-0609

HANMI occupancy at 43% in Sept. 2024

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 43% average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for September 2024, nearly even with 43.29% average occupancy among 11 hotels in September 2023.

A total of 27,065 of 62,915 available room nights sold during September 2024 compared to 27,146 of 62,710 available rooms sold in September 2023. The average room rate was $130.88 compared to $144.24 last September.

"In terms of number of hotel guests in September, HANMI hotels on average saw no growth this year. On top of that, our room rates are actually lower than last year, meaning less revenue overall for both our investors and the government," said HANMI chair Dennis Seo. "While total visitor arrivals to the Marianas did increase by about 22% overall last fiscal year, the last few months were lower year-on-year. Due to the continued challenges of currency exchange, we desperately need a strong third source market to turn this economy around."

Seo acknowledged the partnership of the public and private sectors but said that without a significant increase in visitors, the economy will remain depressed.

"We thank the Legislature and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for prioritizing the work of the Marianas Visitors Authority in this year's fiscal budget act," said Seo. "And we thank our airline partners, the governor, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Marianas Visitors Authority for responding favorably to efforts to maintain stable air service from our top market of Korea during this low-travel season. However, without direct flights from mainland China, our economy will continue to flounder. We continue to seek the administration's endorsement of this request to the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. Austerity Mondays and the brain-drain out of the islands are real, and business closures continue."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, Coral Ocean Resort, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Surfrider Resort Hotel.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of The Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. HANMI membership is open to all qualified hotels and other loading properties for tourists and affiliated business. Membership applications are available at www.saipanhotels.org. ***(PR)***

Coca-Cola
Thank You, Veterans
for your unwavering commitment to our freedom.
We honor you today and always for your extraordinary courage.
From the management and staff of McDonald's of Saipan
STORE HOURS:
CHALAN LAULAU:
OPEN DAILY FOR DINE-IN & DRIVE THRU
(670) 235-8577
GARAPAN EXPRESS:
OPEN DAILY FOR DINE-IN & DRIVE-THRU
(670) 233-8577

National Nurse Practitioner Week proclamation signing tomorrow

The annual National Nurse Practitioner Week, celebrated Nov. 10-16, honors the dedication and expertise of nurse practitioners in the United States, including the U.S. territories.

The week will officially kick off with a proclamation signing ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, at 3pm in the Office of the Governor's conference room. Everyone is invited to attend this meaningful event as the CNMI honors nurse practitioners, the essential healthcare providers at the heart of patient care.

The NP profession has a long and impactful history, originating in 1965 when Drs. Loretta Ford and Henry Silver developed the first nurse practitioner program. Today, nearly 60 years later, more than 385,000 licensed NPs are practicing nationwide, with numbers expected to increase by 46% by 2031, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This growth is timely and essential, as almost 100 million Americans live in areas facing a shortage of primary care providers.

Nurse practitioners are at the forefront of addressing this gap, providing high-quality health care across various specialties and practice settings. Legislation supporting Full Practice Authority enables NPs to deliver care directly to patients, further improving accessibility, especially in underserved areas. These highly skilled professionals conduct over 1 billion patient visits annually, serving in settings from clinics to emergency rooms and private practices. During this year's NP Week, we recognize the positive impact NPs have in communities, meeting patient needs wherever they arise. Join us in celebrating the vital contributions of nurse practitioners in ensuring accessible, compassionate, and expert health care for all.

For more information, contact Arley G. Long, MSN, FNP, WHNP at (670) 783-2468 or via email at Arleylong3@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

DELEGATE

From page 1

2024 CNMI general elections, she addressed questions regarding her support for J&P Holdings' request for a QC with the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority in order to push forward with the establishment of an inter-island air service which will also be known as MACS.

"I'm in full support of their application to get a QC. Competition is good for the airline industry. I hope the application is considered because starting up an airline passenger service is very expensive. They're bringing in new planes to service inter-island (travel) and I hope the community comes out to support it," she said.

J&P Holdings is looking at investing over $8 million on this start-up inter-island service.

King-Hinds, who was also former Commonwealth Ports Authority chairwoman, shared that based on her experience working with J&P Holdings, they have showed their commitment to the CNMI.

"MAC Air and J&P Holdings' John Stewart is just an outstanding, phenomenal human being. He is fully committed to the CNMI. He's made a lot of investments here at the ports. During my time in CPA, J&P Holdings was one of CPA's best paying customers. He was always on time and in terms of lease negotiations, he's made significant investments. He built a whole new hangar, a beautiful one, and his planes are brand new," she said.

When asked about concerns raised regarding the request to waive CNMI taxes, King-Hinds simply said it's not about government revenue but rather to provide a service desperately needed by the residents of the CNMI.

"It's a service that we need, and everyone is talking about the cost of airfare between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and having competition keeps everyone honest and in check. It's not supposed to benefit the government, it's supposed to benefit the public and what the public is crying for is for relief from these high-ticket costs between these islands and an alternative. Competition is healthy and this is one way to help level airfares, and we should all be in support of it," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

UNION

From page 1

representatives have been going door-to-door with lawmakers, asking whether or not they support organized labor unions while also addressing misconceptions about unionization in the CNMI.

"We're 'knocking down' doors to make a big impact for all government employees," said Sasamoto, explaining that, despite some questions, almost all legislators from both the House and Senate have expressed support.

"Surprisingly, there are some legislators that were former union members such as congressman Malcom Omar and congresswoman Julie Ogo and are fully supportive with organized labor for all public sector employees. For the rest of the legislative members, we had to educate them that the Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union, is the first organized labor union in the CNMI government and that we are 'knocking down' doors to make a big impact for all government employees and that we will not put the community in jeopardy such as going on strike during an emergency situation or at any time for that matter. It is against the law for essential services employees to go on strike as well as it is clearly documented in our proposed collective bargaining agreement." stated Sasamoto.

He added that almost all of the lawmakers from the House and Senate support organized labor.

"Those that don't understand this process, we are not trying to put the CNMI government in financial ruin, which is a huge misconception about unions in general, but rather have the government accountable in ensuring that its workforce is treated fairly and equally without fear or consequences and free from corruption due to political affiliations or familial relations. Our mission is to ensure we receive reasonable fair wages and benefits based on current industry standards and expectations of our profession that'll ultimately lead to a better quality of life for ourselves and our families."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FUN DAY

From page 1

hoping to have a great time with the community to come out, and you know this is our thanks and our gratitude to the community of the CNMI for supporting us for the last 80 years," he said.

Guerrero added that Herman's Modern Bakery is now available in K-Mart Guam.

"We just actually launched the Herman's in Guam, so Herman's Modern Bakery is now available in K-Mart in Guam. For our Guam customers, go to K-Mart and find our Herman's products there."

Herman's Modern Bakery president Herman "Junpan" T. Guerrero in his welcome remarks expressed his gratitude to past and present staff for their contributions.

"I would like to welcome all of you, but I also want to thank all our staff from the top to the bottom that has made the difference, and in those also that have served us in the past 80 years, but also the community that has helped us maintain Herman's Modern Bakery for the past 80 years. Perhaps a lot of them are younger, parents, and grandparents know more about Herman's bakery," he said.

He mentioned that some of his siblings were unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Father Rey Rosal blessed the event and prayed for the safety and well-being of the guests.

The attendees enjoyed giveaways such as caps, folding chairs, mugs, cup holders, and umbrellas. They lined up for free food and drinks provided by the sponsors such as cotton candy from Benki, assorted drinks from MARPAC, potato swirl and shave ice from Chelu Shave Ice, Tupu Cane Juice, and hamburger sliders, hotdogs and corndogs, cookies, popcorn, fruits, and water from Herman's Modern Bakery.

Attendees also enjoyed games and activities such as Benki's trackless train, a bouncy house, power wheels, Bridge Capital's dunk booth, Herman's Modern Bakery's balloon designs, face painting, hula hoops, tic tac toe, lawn darts, ring toss, and cornhole toss. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Department of Public Safety vehicle were also on display and a photo booth by VM was also available.

Former Power 99 DJ Santi "Big Boy" Sablan served as the event's emcee and entertainment was provided by Paker Yobei. The event concluded with a raffle drawing.

KILILI

From page 1

ninth term as delegate and instead endorsed House of Representatives floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) to succeed him.

King-Hinds, who ran under the CNMI Republican Party, garnered 4,931 votes or 40% of total votes in the delegate race during the Nov. 5 general elections, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission certified election results.

King-Hinds, a lawyer, is the first woman, first Republican, and first Tinian native to represent the CNMI in the U.S. Congress.

Propst, of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands, came in second as he obtained 4,067 votes or 33.27%. Independent candidates John Oliver Gonzales received 2,282 votes, James Michael Raypand got 665 votes, and Liana S. Hofschneider garnered 280 votes.

Sablan in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend congratulated everyone the voters chose and thanked all "who stood for election–win or lose–and offered their service to the Marianas."

"You demonstrated your respect for the principle of self-governance that for so long our people were denied. Let us never forget," Sablan said.

Sablan, who is turning 70 years old this January, became the CNMI's first elected delegate to the U.S. House in 2008. He is currently serving out his eighth term. During his eight terms in Congress, Sablan either ran unopposed or won through overwhelming votes. In announcing his plan not to seek a ninth term in January 2024, Sablan said the time has come to pass this responsibility to a new representative the people will elect. He thanked the people of the CNMI for giving him what he called "the extraordinary opportunity and most humbling responsibility" of being their voice for over almost 16 years as the representative in the U.S. Congress.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

RFQ25-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CHCC hereby seeks the services of a qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued a Contract thru RFQ25-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-001. These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on November 1st, 2024 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this RFP243-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001.

A Pre-conference meeting will be held on November 8th, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Conference Room #2 located in main Executive Office.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health and to Jesse Tudela, COO/Ancillary Director at jesse.tudela@chcc.health no later than November 25th, 2024.

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at procurement@chcc.health, no later than: 16300hrs (1630) Chamorro Standard Time on December 4th, 2024.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Project Buddy Check 670 organizes 2024 Veterans Family Fun Day

Project Buddy Check 670, Inc., a newly formed veteran-led non-profit organization, would like to invite all veterans and their families to come and celebrate Veterans Day together on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at the American Memorial Park softball field.

Activities for the aptly named Veterans Family Fun Day will begin approximately 12:30pm immediately following the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park

Project Buddy Check, 670 extends their hands to all veterans—combat and non-combat—to join them in a day of fun-filled activities, and to be a part of their network as they intend to support veterans of the CNMI by being a voice and advocate on their behalf and will work the best way we can to bridge the service gap utilizing supplemental activities and programs.

The founding members of the organization are composed of veterans who have an immense understanding of the shortcomings of the services needed to support veterans. With this understanding, they set out goals to help fill these gaps. Organizing the 2024 Veterans Family Fun Day event is the first of other activities to come.

For more information on the upcoming Veterans Family Fun Day or about Project Buddy Check, 670 reach out to event chair and board member Jesse Stole at (670) 588-8988, or email projectbuddycheck670.nmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Amata congratulates King-Hinds, Moylan

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) has sent messages of congratulations to Delegate Jim Moylan of Guam, reelected to a second term, and delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds of the CNMI. Due to the international dateline, these are the first two members elected to the upcoming 119th U.S. Congress that starts in January, known hours before the results in the U.S., while it's during election day here in American Samoa.

In her message to Moylan, Radewagen said, "I'm so happy for you upon your re-election and delighted for the people of Guam. Our Pacific region will benefit from your public service for another term in the 119th Congress. Thank you for your dedicated and principled service to the people of Guam in Congress, where I enjoy working with you, and we have much to do in November and December as we complete the 118th Congress."

In her message to incoming King-Hinds, Radewagen said, "It's a delight to welcome you to the U.S. Congress! Congratulations on your well-earned victory, and I know you will be an excellent representative for the people of the Northern Marianas. Your educational background, experience as a lawyer, and work with ports will be assets in your role in Washington. May God bless your efforts, and I know American Samoa will enjoy working with you on shared priorities."

Radewagen is running for a sixth term, which would be tied as the most senior member of Congress from an insular area. ***(PR)***

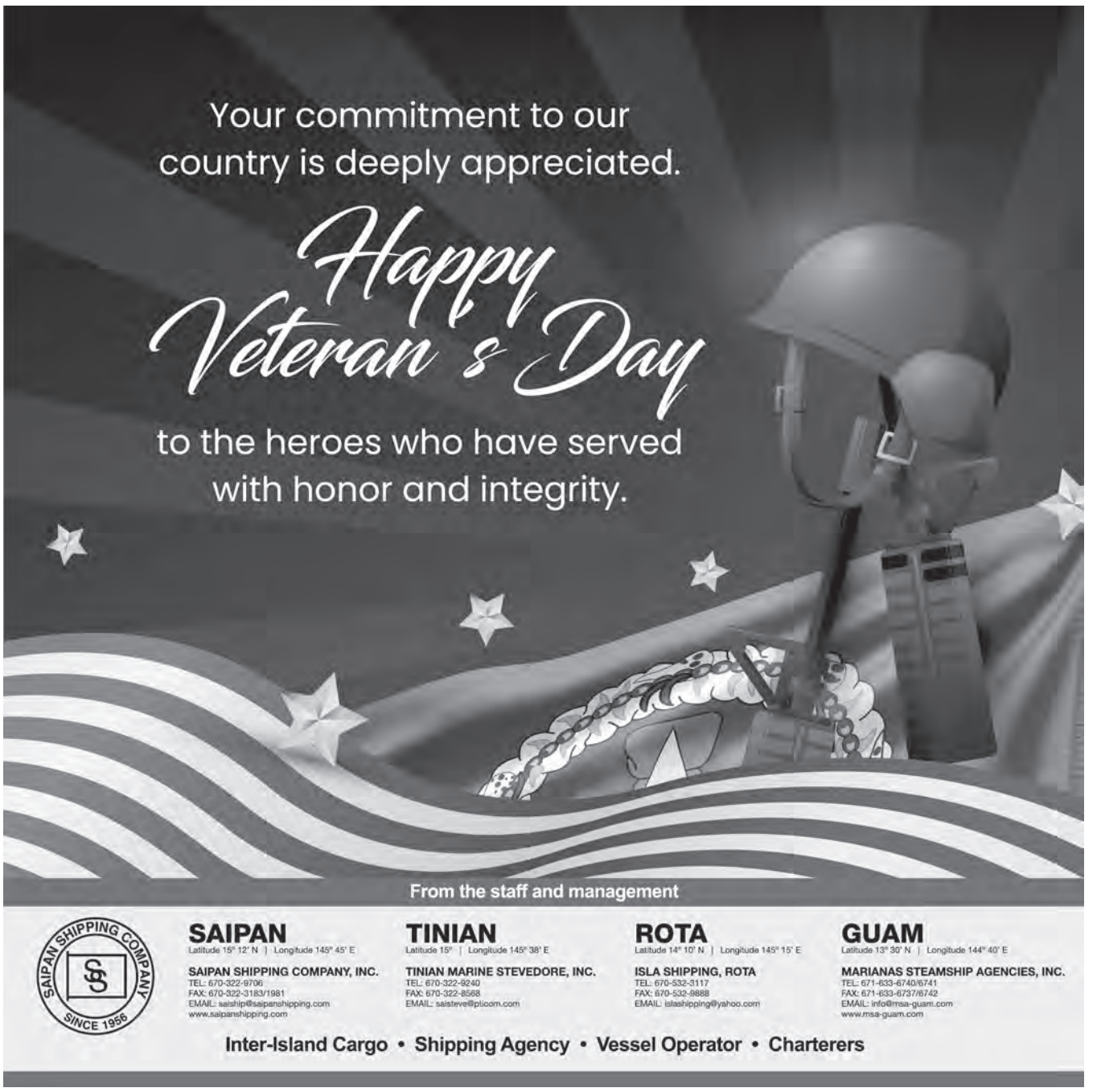
US Labor awards more than $10.5M in grants to support mine safety, health training

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Labor announced that its Mine Safety and Health Administration has awarded more than $10.5 million in grants to organizations in 45 states, the Navajo Nation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to reduce mining accidents, injuries and illnesses by supporting programs such as safety and health courses.

MSHA grants will support the delivery of federally mandated training and re-training for miners at surface, underground coal and metal and nonmetal mines, and miners employed in shell dredging or surface stone, sand and gravel-mining operations.

"Training is crucial to ensuring the protection of miners' safety and health and the grants awarded today will support these essential training programs," said Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health Chris Williamson. "Every miner deserves to end their shift safe and healthy, and quality educational programs will go a long way toward reducing mining accidents, injuries and illnesses."

MSHA state grants are awarded in response to applications by states and territories. Funds are provided to state departments and agencies, and to state-supported universities and colleges. Programs are tailored locally to address conditions and hazards miners in various areas may encounter. ***(PR)***



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our freedom.
We honor you today and always for your extraordinary courage.
From the management and staff of
Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 225

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Americans voted for Trump. Here's what they chose — and the hope for all those who didn't

Much will be studied, analyzed and written for years to come about why Americans voted an openly authoritarian leader back into power in apparently greater margins than they did eight years ago. What's clearer and more important at this moment is what millions of our fellow citizens did by putting Donald Trump back in the White House.

Today we must reckon with the harsh reality that authoritarianism has arrived in America, that it's broadly popular and that millions of our fellow citizens have given it their votes. We are entering a dark and dangerous time. But while this is a moment of reckoning that we must acknowledge, we should also refuse to give in to despair and continue to assert and rely on our rights and protections as Americans.

Over the next four years, the world's most powerful office will be inhabited by a twice-impeached convicted felon with a history of flouting laws and norms—a narcissist who fomented the violent Jan. 6 insurrection and has promised to make decisions based on retribution and prejudice rather than what's best for the country. Americans are right to be frightened and disillusioned by the resurgence of a man who ran on racism and sexism. Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, spent the closing days and weeks of their campaign spewing racist vitriol and calling Vice President Kamala Harris a " b—."

Though large swaths of the country, chief among them California, rejected Trump's fearmongering, it was not enough to overcome his appeal across much of the nation. Huge segments of American voters, some concerned about immigration and the rising cost of living, preferred Trump, with all his glaring flaws and demonstrated incompetence, to a more qualified woman of color. His victory has us wrestling with the question of how two such starkly different visions of the United States coexist.

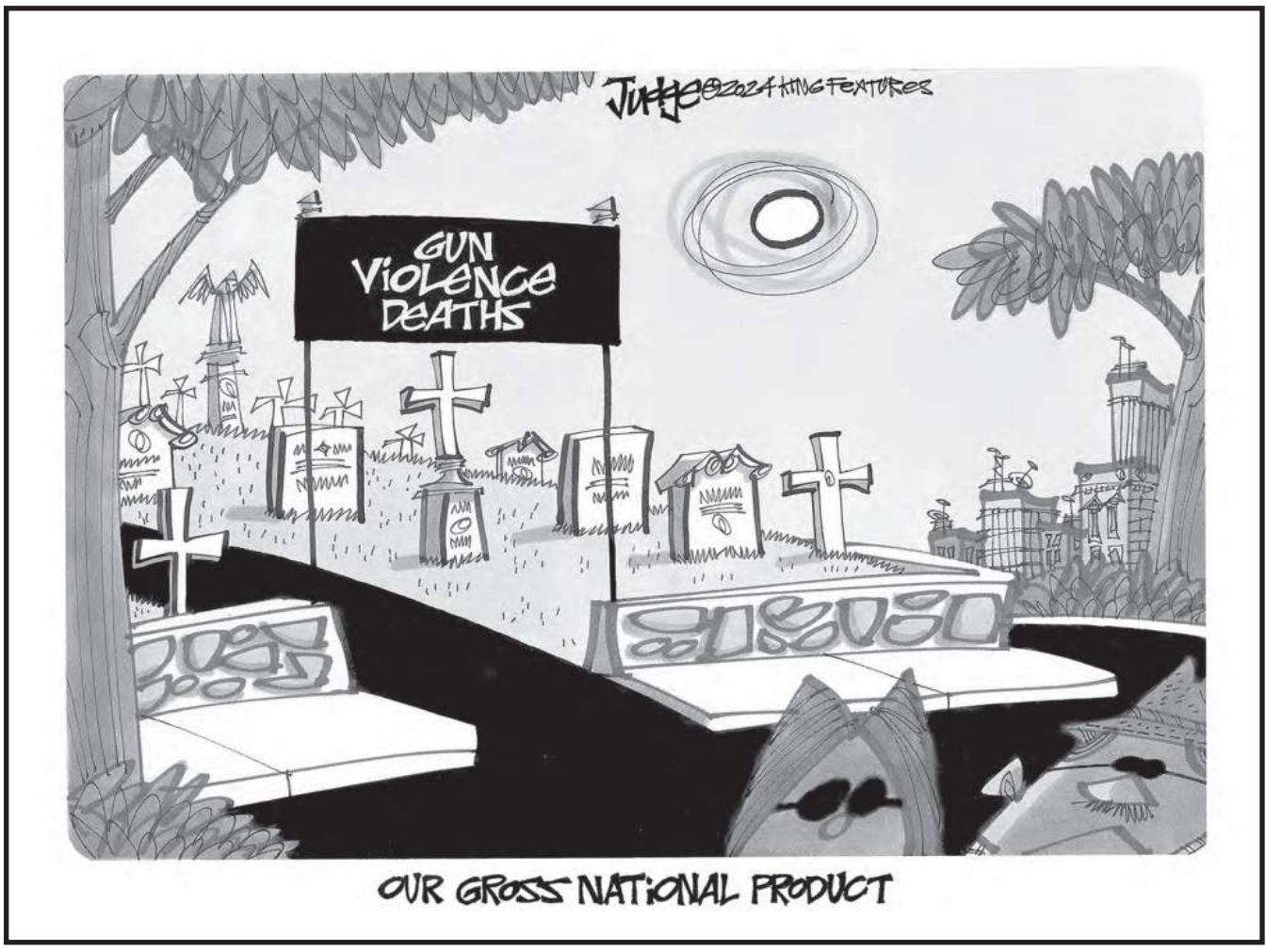
Trump's agenda is poised to further erode many of our rights, especially those of women, LGBTQ+ Americans and immigrants. We can expect him to use the office in blatantly transactional ways and be easily manipulated by opportunistic actors, foreign and domestic. He has promised to abandon U.S. allies, including Ukraine, and give Israel free rein to, as he told Benjamin Netanyahu last month, "do what you have to do."

We can also expect the weaponization of basic government services, including aid for disasters such as wildfires, which Trump has said he could withhold from California. He has always been eager to undo environmental and climate protections. There will be more attacks on science, as evidenced by his willingness to give Robert F. Kennedy Jr. control of health policy. And he has threatened to round up millions of immigrants in deportation camps.

Thanks to a deferential Supreme Court, a subservient Republican Party that won a Senate majority and a determination to assemble a more pliant administration, there will be fewer checks on his power.

Many of Trump's former staff members who have worked closest with him have warned that he is unfit for office and a

See AMERICANS on Page 7



Coming soon to Washington—America's dark ages

I can't do better than those words, uttered last year by Donald Trump's longest-serving White House chief of staff, retired Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, when he dolefully contemplated Trump returning to power.

This is not going to be a standard day-after reflection on how the election is over, the voters have spoken and now we can look forward to the next president's leadership of our nation and hope for the best. That's what I felt eight years ago, after Trump had upset another Democrat who would have been the first female president.

In 2016, having covered presidents of both parties as they came and went, I naively believed that even the narcissist Trump would be humbled by the august power and responsibility of being the leader of the free world. That he would grow in the job.

He wasn't, and he didn't. We know that now—after his tens of thousands of lies in office, the near-daily chaos, his deadly botched response to the pandemic, undermining of Americans' faith in elections, flirtations with autocrats, unprecedented refusal to accept loss and peacefully transfer power in 2020, and his absconding with the nation's top secrets.

In 2017, it was possible to believe that Trump, the purported deal-maker, meant it when he said he wanted to compromise with Congress on both gun control and immigration. He did neither, vexing Democrats and Republicans alike by his deal-breaking. Not only that, Trump ever after demagogued immigration—right back to the White House, it seems.

And now, if he's true to his dystopic words on the campaign trail about murderous migrants "poisoning the blood of our country," we can look forward to "bloody" deportations of millions of people, starting on day one. Which, if carried out, would doom Trump's other big promise: to further grow the economy. Nonpartisan economic analyses suggest mass deportations of workers—because that's what the undocumented residents are: tax-paying workers—would hit the economy harder than the last decade's financial collapse.

Many years ago, a well-known Republican strategist first schooled me in the political truism that although Americans profess to want our candidates to embody hope and comity, fear and anger are by far the stronger vote-motivators. Trump never needed to be schooled. His superpower is his innate grasp of the power of fear and anger to build an aggrieved following, what he called in his victory declaration early Wednesday "the greatest political movement of all time."

The now-vanquished Kamala Harris said at her final, hopeful rally in Philadelphia on Monday night: "We have an opportunity in this election to finally turn the page on a decade of politics that has been driven by fear and division. We are done with that."

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

No, sadly, we aren't.

Harris envisioned a United States "where we see our fellow Americans not as an enemy, but as a neighbor." Trump, who began his campaign last year vowing "retribution," couldn't get through his 10-minute victory lap early Wednesday morning without referring to "the enemy camp." He was talking about the TV networks, but for weeks in his closing campaign arguments he'd expansively—and ominously—defined an "enemy within" that included Democrats, journalists, his Republican critics and former advisors-turned-Cassandras, a la Kelly.

Democrats are "demonic," Trump said on Sunday, and he repeatedly singled out Californians Nancy Pelosi, the former House speaker ("an evil, sick, crazy, b-b-b … starts with a 'b' "), and "pencil neck" Adam Schiff, now a senator-elect. Both are among the many Trump targets who've needed costly security as a consequence of his attacks.

Trump repeatedly demeaned Harris as stupid and worse. His running mate, Mini-Me JD Vance, called her "trash" at the campaign's end. Trump's former vice president would never have said such a thing, but Mike Pence also wouldn't help Trump overturn the 2020 election, which is why Trump dumped him for someone who said he would have. So the 40-year-old Vance will be the MAGA heir apparent to the oldest person ever elected as U.S. president.

In victory, Teleprompter Trump mostly said the right things: "We're going to try to help our country heal," he read, eyes shifting left to right to scan prepared remarks. "This will truly be the golden age of America." (Real Trump ad-libbed the "enemy camp" remarks.)

But we know Trump too well. We are entering not a golden age but a new dark age in America.

The Constitution-respecting advisors that acted as guardrails in his first term have been banished. The Supreme Court he packed has given presidents virtual immunity from criminal prosecution. He's surrounded by sycophants who've compiled

See COMING on Page 7

I'm a doctor in East LA and Beverly Hills. I want to treat obesity the same way in both places

By ANNE L. PETERS
Los Angeles Times

In addition to her medical practice, Anne L. Peters is a senior scholar at the USC Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service.

As a diabetes specialist, I've treated thousands of patients, some in Beverly Hills and some in East Los Angeles. My Beverly Hills patients live to become healthy 80- and 90-year-olds. I can't remember when my last patient from this community lost their vision, had an amputation or started dialysis. Almost none have heart attacks or strokes.

But in under-resourced parts of East L.A. I see people every week in their 40s and 50s who have developed life-altering, preventable diabetes complications—blindness, kidney failure, the loss of a limb. These patients rarely live to grow old.

Obesity is one of the drivers of this heartbreaking disparity. Health-conscious Beverly Hills is replete with doctors' offices, fresh food and gyms. Most residents there can spend what they need to maintain a healthy diet and get help to control diabetes. In East Los Angeles, where for some a home refrigerator can be a luxury, diabetes and obesity afflict thousands of families who depend on fast and processed food to provide the affordable calories they need to survive.

The tale of these two neighborhoods is replicated across the country. Obesity kills 300,000 Americans annually. It is associated with increased risk of more than 200 other diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia. According to modeling by my colleagues at the USC Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service, the average American will soon have obesity. Black and Latino individuals experience higher rates of severe obesity compared to non-Latino white people, translating into higher rates of chronic diseases.

Despite decades of public health efforts, obesity increases. Some recent lifestyle interventions have shown promise; for the most part, however, simply urging people in minority neighborhoods to change their diets has proved ineffective. Although providing resources and education do help, these initiatives are often grant-funded and not routinely available. Lots of proposed solutions that might resonate in wealthier communities, such as recommending "fixed" foods, with reduced sugar, fats and preservatives, just don't fly in East L.A. Cost and availability of healthy foods are two reasons. So is culture. Where there is food insecurity, familiar food can be a celebration not easily surrendered.

But at least one weight-loss remedy that is enormously popular in Beverly Hills also works across town: medication. New drugs such as Wegovy/Ozempic (semaglutide) and Zepbound/Mounjaro (tirzepatide), if used with proper medical supervision, can often reduce body weight by 15% or more. Several of my patients with severe obesity have lost close to 100 pounds and avoided much more burdensome metabolic surgery.

The drugs come with list prices that can top $1,200 a month, although health insurance companies often negotiate deep discounts. So far Medicare is not helping reduce patient costs because it is barred from paying for weight-loss drugs. But Medicaid, the state/federal program that covers the poor, faces no such constraint. And it has a big price advantage: By law, it automatically gets the biggest discounts negotiated by any payer.

Several states, including California, have added one or more of the obesity drugs to their Medicaid formularies. In Los Angeles County, use is still not widespread as doctors have to secure prior authorizations through Medicaid managed-care organizations and teach patients how to inject themselves at home. But among those patients who are taking the drugs, we are seeing improvements in health.

The balance between the drugs' prices and their benefits is a fraught debate, mostly centered on what would happen to public and private sector budgets under broadened coverage. The Congressional Budget Office recently concluded that the costs of authorizing coverage in Medicare would exceed the benefits of beneficiaries' improved health for the next 10 years.

I'm not an economist, but I know that focusing just on government ledgers can be shortsighted. I see firsthand that medications have a big role to play in the treatment of obesity and diabetes. Like many other drugs I have prescribed for other diseases, over time they will become more affordable while reducing the costs of treating associated illnesses. Research at USC Schaeffer projects that Medicare coverage of obesity treatments could generate $4 trillion in social value to Americans over three decades.

Of course we also need to keep pressing for better, broader fresh food access, healthier diets and safe places to exercise around the clinic where I work in East L.A. However, use of these newer medications in any part of town can provide true benefit even if lifestyle changes are harder to implement.

I'm in favor of whatever works for my patients, no matter where they live, as long as preventive healthcare and individualized treatment plans are part of the equation.

The only thing bigger in this election than Trump's comeback is the media's self-own

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Everyone loves a comeback story.

Maybe that's all there is to Donald Trump's otherwise unbelievable victory over Vice President Kamala Harris and the most well-financed campaign in U.S. history.

Or maybe it's nothing more complicated than election fundamentals: Too many Americans think the nation is on the wrong-track. It's the economy, stupid.

In the coming days and weeks, there will be no shortage of analysis about how and why the Harris campaign collapsed in its final days while Trump was ascendant—to a degree most of us could not even imagine.

Any assessment that doesn't include a serious and sober look at the media's role in Trump's victory should be disregarded outright. Because there is no doubt that the fourth estate contributed mightily to Trump's rise and tremendous comeback, very much in spite of itself.

It feels like forever ago that someone (maybe Sarah Palin?) began using the phrase "lamestream media" in reference to legacy national media organizations. It was kind of a joke at the time, something a sore loser or ungracious winner might say in response to unfavorable coverage.

There were certainly instances of prejudicial reporting, but a critical mass of large newsrooms still operated with integrity, even if some reporters and commentators within them did not.

At some point, though, the meme became self-evident. Legacy media organizations (you know those to which I am referring) had become weak, impaired, unabashedly biased and wholly unable to fulfill their critical duty to simply report what happens.

News reporters, through both selective omissions and completely biased reporting, began picking and choosing political winners and losers with relative impunity. Hence the rise of Fox News in response.

One need only look to the presidency of George W. Bush or the campaigns of John McCain and Mitt Romney to see how they endured far more scrutiny and outright mockery than their political opponents.

But it was the ascendance of Trump that sent them over the edge, totally eliminating even the specter of objectivity in reporting.

Members of the media — particularly those on television networks but also national print publications — were so fueled with hatred for Trump (not always for the wrong reasons) that reporting with prejudice became, it appeared, a feature and not a bug of their job.

They filled the airwaves and flooded front pages with false narratives about what they perceived the average American to care about (a joke at the expense of Puerto Rico, an idiotic comment about immigrants eating pets), but forgot about the fundamental struggles facing people every day.

They suppressed stories that did matter—inflation, millions of unauthorized immigrants putting economic pressure on American cities, antisemitism on college campuses and American streets—and demonized those who tried to tell them.

They repeatedly took Trump's statements out of context so as to be reported in the worst possible light. (No, he did not say that his critic Liz Cheney should be executed by firing squad.)

Trump has never needed any help at sounding crazy. He has said enough ridiculous, outlandish and cringe-worthy things over the course of his political life to warrant outrage and disgust on their own merit. Why offer him help?

Meanwhile, Harris enjoyed some of the most favorable reporting imaginable.

Her "joy-filled" campaign received every grace the media could bestow, from softball questions to favorable editing that made her inchoate responses to simple questions seem reasonable and concise.

She was protected and coddled and excused in ways that the women who claim to be feminists should have found insulting and belittling.

Social media and the internet have made it easier to create and spread false or misleading information and narratives, indeed, but they have had the opposite effect, too.

These sources provide everyone with access and opportunity to see the full context of remarks and the entire interview instead of just the tightly edited version, allowing viewers to make up their own minds about what was and wasn't said and if it mattered at all.

As it turns out, people like being lied and told what to think even less than they like Trump's malarkey, so to speak.

Who'd have thunk?

Self-evaluation is always difficult, especially when emotions are running high.

But the national media's devolution during the Trump years has to be part of any post-mortem by the Harris campaign. And if Democrats want to win in the future, they better look for ways to address it.

Because they just couldn't help themselves. Instead, they helped Trump in what may be the greatest self-own anyone could have imagined.

AMERICANS

From page 6

grave threat to our democracy. His election does not change any of that. History has shown that dictators often come into power through democratic means.

Times like these test the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous words that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice"—even as modified by former President Obama, who added that "progress is bumpy. It always has been."

But we still enjoy safeguards in the state and federal constitutions, the courts, the rule of law, the free press and democracy—even if they are tested like never before. We still have legions of elected officials, civil servants, advocates and journalists who will use their positions to resist the next administration's excesses.

California will once again play an indispensable role in defending individual liberties and protecting vulnerable communities as well as defending environmental protections. We endured Trump's tumultuous first term and we will get through the next one.

©2024 Los Angeles Times

COMING

From page 6

the extremist Project 2025 agenda and a database of vetted MAGAts for federal jobs. As president, he will escape legal accountability for the alleged federal crimes of his first term, and likely the sentencing for 34 felony convictions in New York that he faces in just three weeks.

Unlike Trump and his supporters who never accepted Joe Biden as their president, I will recognize Trump as mine. And I trust Biden and Harris will be at the west front of the Capitol—where Trump's violent supporters first breached the building in their attempted coup—to witness his swearing-in on Jan. 20, despite his failure to do the same for them four years ago.

Eight years ago, it wasn't completely nuts on the morning after election day to hope that Trump could be a president for all of us. Fool me once … well, you know the rest.

Business

New Toyota, Lexus dealership to open Nov. 18

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, announced that the new Toyota and Lexus Dealership and Service Center in Puerto Rico will open for business on Nov. 18, 2024, at 8am.

After months of construction, the well-anticipated state-of-the art facility will soon open its doors to serve the community.

Important transition information

After 57 incredible years serving the community in Oleai, the last day of operations at the current location will be Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024. The dealership will remain closed on Friday, Nov. 15, through Saturday, Nov. 16, and resume normal business operations at the new facility. Telephones will be out of order during this closure and urgent inquiries should be sent by email to service@aksaipan.com.

The dealership is contacting customers with service appointments and repair work that is scheduled during this period. Customers will be provided flexible and convenient accommodations to ensure their service has little to no disruption during this move.

Important dates

■ Last day of operations at Oleai: Thursday, Nov. 14

■ Closed: Friday, Nov.15, and Saturday, Nov. 16

■ New facility opening Date: Monday, Nov. 18, at 8a,

■ New facility telephone number: (670) 234-5911

Atkins Kroll thanks the community for its understanding and support during this exciting transition and looks forward to creating new memories in Puerto Rico. Atkins Kroll remains here for Saipan, here for life. ***(PR)***

AK KROLL

The interior of the soon-to-open Toyota and Lexus Dealership and Service Center in Puerto Rico.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **January 22, 2024, Manuel Camacho Borja & Angelina Ayuyu Borja**, an immediate family member of **Geraldine A. Borja,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Geraldine A. Borja,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024.**

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

Name: Angelina Chipwelong and Sunday June Welle
Address: P.O. Box 504942
Phone: (670) 286-2198

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for: C.E.R., D.A.E.R., AND D.T.E.R Minor Child(ren)	]	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0438
	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: ANGELINA CHIPWELONG AND SUNDAY JUNE WELLE Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union now accepting SRCU internship applications

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SRCU interns sitting, from left, Craig Chugrad, McEllie Garcia, Jovelyn Concepcion, Lana Paulino, Marvin Villeza. Standing, from left, senior member service representative Celicia Garrido and SRCU manager Neo Cristian Pangilinan.

GUAM—Community First Guam Federal Credit Union is currently accepting internship applications for its Student-Run Credit Union in Mangilao. The application period opened on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024 and will close on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024.

Student-interns are fully trained in the credit union's policies and procedures, for up to two semesters. Student-interns also conduct research and development to develop new credit union products and services. The student-interns will be trained and mentored by SRCU manager, Neo Christian Pangilinan. Pangilinan is a SRCU alumni and completed his internship in Spring 2019. He was named assistant SRCU manager in April 2023 and promoted to SRCU manager in March 2024.

The student-interns can utilize their experience to springboard into a career in the finance industry while gaining valuable experience working part-time while earning their degrees. Student-interns work around their class schedules and train as a team two days a week. Since 2018, 50 interns have successfully completed the SRCU program.

SRCU eligibility requirements:

■ Must be 18 years or older

■ Be a junior in a four-year program or a sophomore in a two-year program

■ Must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better

■ Provide two letters of recommendation from faculty or other advisors

Applications are available online at www.cfirstguam.com/srcu and must be submitted via email to hr@cfirstguam.com.

Important dates

■ Applications will be accepted from: 10/01/24-11/30/24

■ Interviews and screening will take place between: 12/02/24-12/13/24

■ Notice of selection: 12/16/24-12/21/24

■ New semester internship will begin: 12/23/24

About Community First SRCU

Community First launched the SRCU in January 2018 in the heart of Mangilao, which is strategically located near the University of Guam and Guam Community College. This student-run service center, the first of its kind in Guam, is operated by college students enrolled at UOG and GCC. The service center is open to serve all existing and new members of Community First. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **December 28, 2023, Ronnie L. Aguon**, an immediate family member of **Daelina T. Aguon,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Aguon,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024.**

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Telephone Numbers 670-234-6866/9447
Fax No: 670-234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on **January 23, 2024, Rita Reyes Fitial,** an immediate family member of **Jennifer Muna Reyes**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. **Ms. Reyes,** an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Bpx 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **November 18, 2024.**

Dated this 28th day of October, 2024.

/S/ Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

Thank you
FOR YOUR SELFLESS SERVICE.
WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
SACRIFICES AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION.
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Nation

Biden, Trump will meet in Oval Office Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will host President-elect Donald Trump for a traditional postelection meeting in the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said Saturday.

Such a meeting is customary between the outgoing president and the incoming president, and is meant partly to mark the start of a peaceful transfer of power under America's democracy.

But Trump, a Republican, did not host Biden, a Democrat, for a sit-down after the 2020 election, when Trump lost his reelection bid.

Trump sought the presidency four years later, and this week he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat. Trump is the first former president to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election.

The White House said Biden called Trump this past Wednesday to congratulate him and invite him to meet in the Oval Office.

In a speech Thursday, Biden said he had assured Trump "that I would direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve."

Their upcoming meeting is set for 11 a.m.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(10/16/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
  • **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XIV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Car Rental Concessions"

for: CPA-RFP-002-25

(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposers will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-25
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES (RFP-007-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-25
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 11, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 11, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA WEBSITE UPGRADE, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT (RFP-005-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 11, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: October 11, 2024

Frustrated Americans await economic changes they voted for with Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fed up with high prices and unimpressed with an economy that by just about any measure is a healthy one, Americans demanded change when they voted for president.

They could get it.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to topple many of the Biden administration's economic policies. Trump campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods, slash taxes on individuals and businesses and deport millions of undocumented immigrants working in the United States.

With their votes, tens of millions of Americans expressed their confidence that Trump can restore the low prices and economic stability they recall from his first term—at least until the COVID-19 recession of 2020 paralyzed the economy and then a powerful recovery sent inflation soaring. Inflation has since plummeted and is nearly back to normal. Yet Americans are frustrated over still-high prices.

"His track record proved to be, on balance, positive, and people look back now and think: 'Oh, OK. Let's try that again,' " said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former White House economic adviser, director of the Congressional Budget Office and now president of the conservative American Action Forum think tank.

Since Election Day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has skyrocketed more than 1,700 points, largely on expectations that tax cuts and a broad loosening of regulations will accelerate economic growth and swell corporate profits.

Maybe they will. Yet many economists warn that Trump's plans are likely to worsen the inflation he's vowed to eradicate, drive up the federal debt and eventually slow growth.

The Peterson Institute for International Economics, a leading think tank, has estimated that Trump's policies would slash the U.S. gross domestic product—the total output of goods and services — by between $1.5 trillion and $6.4 trillion through 2028. Peterson also estimated that Trump's proposals would drive prices sharply higher within two years: Inflation, which would otherwise come in at 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's policies were enacted in full.

Last month, 23 Nobel-winning economists signed a letter warning that a Trump administration "will lead to higher prices, larger deficits, and greater inequality."

"Among the most important determinants of economic success," they wrote, "are the rule of law and economic and political certainty, and Trump threatens all of these."

Trump is inheriting an economy that, despite frustratingly high prices, looks fundamentally strong. Growth came in at a healthy 2.8% annual rate from July through September. Unemployment is 4.1% — quite low by historic standards.

Among wealthy countries, only Spain will experience faster growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund's forecast. The United States is the economic "envy of the world," the Economist magazine recently declared.

The Federal Reserve is so confident that U.S. inflation is slowing toward its 2% target that it cut its benchmark rate in September and again this week.

Consumers, though, still bear the scars of the inflationary surge. Prices on average are still 19% higher than they were before inflation began to accelerate in 2021. Grocery bills and rent hikes are still causing hardships, especially for lower-income households. Though inflation-adjusted hourly wages have risen for more than two years, they're still below where they were before President Joe Biden took office.

Voters took their frustration to the polls. According to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, 3 in 10 voters said their family was "falling behind" financially, up from 2 in 10 in 2020. About 9 in 10 voters were at least somewhat worried about the cost of groceries, 8 in 10 about the cost of healthcare, housing or gasoline.

"I don't think it's either deep or complicated," Holtz-Eakin said. "The real problem is the Biden-Harris team made people worse off, and they were very angry about it, and we saw the result."

The irony is that mainstream economists fear Trump's remedies will make price levels worse, not better.

The centerpiece of Trump's economic agenda is taxing imports. It's an approach that he asserts will shrink America's trade deficits and force other countries to grant concessions to the United States.

Life & Style

Tony Todd, known for his role in the movie 'Candyman,' dies at 69

Actor Tony Todd, known for his haunting portrayal of a killer in the horror film "Candyman" and roles in many other films and television shows, has died, his longtime manager confirmed. He was 69.

Todd died Wednesday at his home in the Los Angeles area, his manager Jeffrey Goldberg said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I had the privilege to have Tony as my friend and client for over 30 years and I will miss that amazing man every single day," Goldberg said.

"Known worldwide for his towering presence, both physically and artistically, Tony leaves behind an indelible legacy in film, theater, and the hearts of those who had the honor of knowing him," Goldberg's management company said in announcing the death.

Todd

"We bid farewell to Tony Todd, a giant of cinema and a beloved soul whose impact on our lives and the world of film will never be forgotten," it said.

Todd's film resume included roles in award-winning movies such as the Oliver Stone-directed classic "Platoon," released in 1986.

Todd was also known for his role in the 2000 horror film "Final Destination" and its sequel in 2003. The film company New Line Cinema mourned Todd's death on social media over the weekend:

"The industry has lost a legend," the company said on Instagram. "We have lost a cherished friend. Rest in peace, Tony."

In "Candyman," released in 1992 and followed by a remake in 2021, Todd played a menacing killer who had a hook on one arm. The premise is built around an urban myth that Candyman roamed the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago and could be summoned by saying his name five times in front of a mirror. The 2021 movie explores societal problems such as racism and police brutality.

Todd's television career included roles in "Night Court," "Matlock" and "Law & Order."

"Off-screen, Tony was cherished as a mentor, a friend, and a beacon of kindness and wisdom," Goldberg's company said. "He gave his time and resources to aspiring actors, consistently advocating for greater representation and authenticity within the industry."

"Those who knew him will remember his warm laugh, generous spirit, and his dedication to his craft," the company said. "Whether on stage, on screen, or in personal conversations, Tony brought an unyielding honesty that resonated deeply with his friends, family, and fans." ***(AP)***

Beyoncé leads the 2025 Grammy nominations

NEW YORK (AP)— Welcome to Beyoncé country. When it comes to the 2025 Grammy Award nominations, "Cowboy Carter" rules the nation. She leads the nods with 11, bringing her career total to 99 nominations. That makes her the most nominated artist in Grammy history.

» Becoming most nominated artist in show's history

"Cowboy Carter" is up for album and country album of the year, and "Texas Hold 'Em" is nominated for record, song and country song of the year. She also received nominations in a wide swath of genres, including pop, country, Americana and melodic rap performance categories.

This is her first time receiving nominations in the country and Americana categories. Previously, she and her husband Jay-Z were tied for most career nominations, at 88.

If Beyoncé wins the album of the year, she'll become the first Black woman to do so in the 21st century. Lauryn Hill last won in 1999 for "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," joining Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston as the only Black women to take home the Grammys' top prize.

Post Malone also received his first ever nominations in the country categories this year, having released his debut country album "F-1 Trillion" in August. That one is up for country album and "I Had Some Help," his collaboration with Morgan Wallen, is nominated for country song and country duo/group performance. They are Wallen's first ever Grammy nominations.

Malone is just behind Beyoncé, with seven nominations, tied with Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Charli XCX, who earned her first nominations as a solo artist.

Lamar's ubiquitous diss track released during his feud with Drake, "Not Like Us," is nominated for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance. He has two simultaneous entries in the latter category, a career first: Future & Metro Boomin featuring Lamar, "Like That" is up for best rap performance and best rap song.

This is his third time receiving two simultaneous nominations for best rap song.

Taylor Swift and first-time nominees Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan boast of six nominations each.

'Saturday Night Live' to take on nd Trump term after focusing on Harris

"Saturday Night Live" is likely to strike a new tone as it looks toward a second term for Donald Trump in its first episode since his election victory.

Standup comic and actor Bill Burr will host for the second time with Mk.gee as musical guest.

But most eyes will be on the NBC sketch institution's cold open, and the signal it gives about what four more years will mean for the generally liberal-leaning show, other than steady employment for cast member James Austin Johnson, who does a Trump impression that has become definitive.

In the first five episodes of its 50th season, which has seen a ratings spike, the show openings made Vice President Kamala Harris—played by returning cast member Maya Rudolph—the central star, culminating last week in an appearance by Harris herself, with a giddy pre-election energy in the air.

This Saturday night could be a little less live.

After Trump's first election victory in 2016, Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on the show, appeared as the losing candidate sitting at the piano and sang an almost entirely somber-and-serious version of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," changing only one verse from the best-known versions of the song.

AP

Bill Burr, a cast member in "Unfrosted," poses at the premiere of the Netflix film at the Egyptian Theatre, April 30, 2024, in Los Angeles.

"And even though it all went wrong, I'll stand before the lord of song with nothing on my tongue but 'Hallelujah," McKinnon sang in what became a national moment of catharsis for those on the losing side.

After finishing, McKinnon said, with a shaky voice, "I'm not giving up and neither should you" before delivering the obligatory "live from New York, it's Saturday night!"

Standup comic Dave Chappelle hosted that episode. One sketch featured him and another Black comic-actor, Chris Rock, watching election returns with white liberals, who are shocked by the results, unlike their Black guests. ***(AP)***

Wife tired of being the only one to make plans

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 17 years to a good man with many great attributes. However, our relationship lacks connection. Every effort at emotional connection is initiated by me (like planning date nights or going out for a walk to have a conversation). I have told him many times I need him to make an effort to initiate. He always agrees, but never follows through.

I have now stopped planning date nights and told him that we won't be going on a date unless he schedules and plans it. (I do not require anything elaborate—a walk or a simple coffee would suffice.) That was two months ago, and he has made zero effort.

I am lonely and at a loss. What should I do? I have clearly communicated my needs and what I expect from him, and he doesn't seem to care, so I'm not sure where to go from here.

LONELY IN MINNESOTA

DEAR LONELY: Has it not occurred to you that your husband of 17 years may not have the ability or experience to plan an outing? Assuming the two of you enjoy those walks and dates, and you want to stay married to him, resume taking the initiative and planning your personal time together and show him how it's done. It may not be romantic, but I have heard of men who have far worse flaws.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Do you think it's unreasonable to ask an acquaintance/neighbor to send a quick text before dropping by? This neighbor lives within the same development I do. She is friendly enough, and we occasionally walk our dogs together, but she has a habit of coming by unannounced.

I was out one afternoon and noticed later while viewing my security camera that she had come by and brought with her another woman and the woman's dog. I texted her and let her know that I saw that she had stopped by, and, in the future, I'd prefer she texted me before stopping over. Now she is offended and says she will "never stop over again."

I saw her walk by my house recently and came out to speak to her. When I tried to talk to her, she held up her hand and said, "Don't even speak to me!" I think this is childish and drama-filled. What do you think?

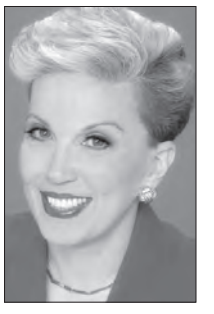
GROWN-UP IN OHIO

DEAR GROWN-UP: I agree with you. The woman overreacted to your text. This is one of the reasons I believe talking on the phone or face-to-face is a better way to communicate because there's less chance of someone misconstruing a terse message and taking offense. As to her directive that you should not speak to her, take her up on it. Dropping in on someone with no warning is inconsiderate, bordering on rude.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You personify patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made while you were serving your country.

LOVE, ABBY

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

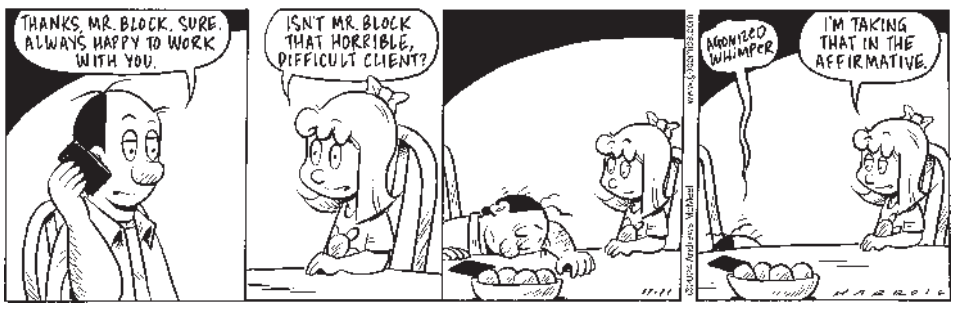
HELLO, IS YOUR DAD THERE?
NO, HE ISN'T.
OK. WILL YOU WRITE DOWN MY NUMBER AND HAVE HIM CALL ME?
HOLD ON. I NEED A PEN.
POW!
AGHHH! I'VE BEEN SHOT!
I HATE TAKING MESSAGES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


THANKS, MR. BLOCK. SURE. ALWAYS HAPPY TO WORK WITH YOU.
ISN'T MR. BLOCK THAT HORRIBLE, DIFFICULT CLIENT?
AGONIZED WHIMPER
I'M TAKING THAT IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WIPED OUT THE ENTIRE POPULATION EXCEPT US, YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN?
PLEASE DON'T GO THERE.
THERE'D BE NO LINES AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK FOR THE BUMPER CARS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nov. honoree
4 Leg cramp, e.g.
9 Snoop
12 Sundial numeral
13 Star's bit part
14 Aussie hopper
15 Securing a vessel, say
17 Antlered grazer
18 Epoch
19 Limber
21 Heeded
24 Hollywood's Kazan
25 Preventive shot, in slang
26 Cotillion celeb
28 Razor sharpener
31 Ways to the WWW
33 Harden
35 Beget
36 Nile feature
38 Triage ctrs.
40 Mosquito barrier
41 Overnight —
43 Puzzle
45 Composer Bela
47 Dawn goddess
48 Blackbird
49 Caring for
54 MSNBC rival
55 "Adam Bede" author
56 Avril follower
57 Crone
58 Feeds the pigs
59 Violin tuner

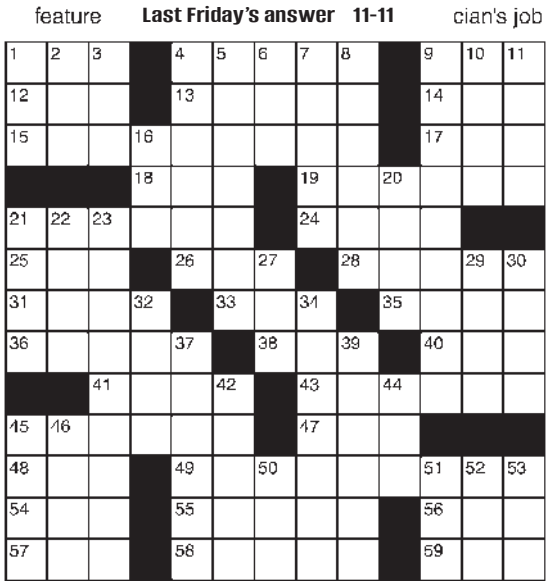
DOWN

1 By means of
2 Aachen article
3 Twitch
4 Earned points
5 Veterans Day events
6 Paris pal
7 Feel
8 Ski slope bumps
9 Setting the stage
10 Bakery buy
11 Oxen's burden
16 "Yoo-hoo!"
20 Cherry centers
21 Roman poet
22 Pyramid part
23 Poking around
27 Spell-down
29 Utah city
30 Anti-fur org.
32 RBI, for one
34 Nest locale
37 Makes amends
39 Anteaters' features
42 Cranium
44 Medit. nation
45 Giant of Baroque music
46 Author Quindlen
50 Brazilian city
51 Little rascal
52 Scot's denial
53 Musician's job

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	H		M	S	S		G	L	O	S	S
L	I	L		L	M	I		Y	L	N	I	A
O	R	C		G	I	N	O	R	M	O	U	S
N	I	A		A	L	E	R	O				
G	A	P	S		E	W	E		S	O	A	K
			P	A	D		G	I	N	K	G	O
A	D	U	E	H				C	A	S	I	S
G	I	N	N	I	E		F	Y	I			
E	G	A	D		V	E	E		L	O	C	K
			B	E	L	L	S		B	E	E	
G	I	N	G	E	R	A	L	E		A	D	M
M	A	G	N	A		T	A	T		M	A	P
S	N	O	U	T		E	S	S		A	R	T

Last Friday's answer 11-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 50; Calista Flockhart, 60; Demi Moore, 62; Marc Summers, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take every opportunity to turn a negative that comes your way into a positive. This is a year of change, making a difference in your life and the lives of those you love. Pay attention to what matters, surround yourself with those heading down a similar path and make a point to fulfill your dreams, hopes and wishes for a brighter future. Make the tough calls and bask in the glory of doing what's best for you. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 27, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think before you act, and you'll avoid regret. Direct your time wisely, apply your attributes to do something you enjoy and gain insight into your goals. Approach your path passionately, and you'll attract someone who can help you advance. Choose an open mind and a positive direction forward. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Surrounding yourself with what excites you will change your perspective and encourage you to reach for things you have denied yourself for too long. It's time for a new look, direction and lifelong goal. Eliminate what's no longer working for you and replace it with a fresh look and start. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want to review details carefully before agreeing to participate in something time-consuming or expensive. Don't trust others to be accurate with the facts. Do the research and verify the information. Excess is the enemy; keep your life and plans simple and affordable. Apply your energy and enthusiasm to learning. ✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your efforts will help you gain recognition and advancement. Differentiate yourself from the competition, stand tall and make yourself heard. An honest look at your past will help you redefine your future. You may not relish change, but it will be easier to digest if you consider it an improvement. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Apply force where necessary, but let others decide for themselves. There is a fine line between bullying and encouraging others to do what's right. Offer facts and a good example, and be willing to lead the way; you'll be well-received by those who can impact your plans as you intend. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from your mistakes and avoid temptation. A change will spark your imagination and drive you to participate in something different. Don't hesitate to make suggestions or put a unique spin on whatever you do. Your happiness and satisfaction are up to you. Deter anyone pressuring you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Broaden your horizons, learn about possibilities and seek whatever makes you happy. Finding your happy place will do wonders for your outlook and the response you receive from others. Short trips, educational pursuits and communication will offer food for thought, but it's up to you to decipher what's good for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Enjoy the moment. Don't let anyone interfere or lead you astray. Everything will fall into place if you stick to your budget and fulfill your desires. Secure what you have and want to keep, value those who enrich your life and put your energy into what makes you happy. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Step back, observe, analyze and come up with a plan before you consult with others. You must have sound ideas before you go to bat for what you want to see transpire. There is no room for error; get your facts and plan of attack in order. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change begins with you. It's time to lighten up and have some fun. Consider your attributes and the best way to put them to good use, and enjoy the process. Be creative and let your diversity shine through. The contributions you make will surprise others and define your beliefs. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep an eye on your money, possessions and reputation. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something inappropriate or expensive. Put your energy into getting ahead and turning your space into something that helps you accommodate your long-term plans. Don't trust hearsay; get the facts firsthand. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Declutter your life, home and belongings. Letting go or paying it forward to those in need will be rejuvenating. If you need cash, sell off what you no longer use and pay down debt. A practical attitude will offer peace of mind and a path to a better life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, opportunistic and playful. You are changeable and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7				2		5		8
	5				9	1		
1	9			5	6			7
	4		6	9			2	1
	1			8			4	
		9	4		2	8	7	5
4	8		2	7				3
	2		3		1		8	
3				6		4		2

Difficulty: ★ 11/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

1	9	4	6	5	3	8	7	2
3	8	5	9	2	7	4	6	1
7	6	2	1	4	8	5	9	3
9	5	3	4	6	2	7	1	8
2	1	8	3	7	5	9	4	6
6	4	7	8	9	1	3	2	5
8	7	9	5	1	6	2	3	4
5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8	9
4	3	6	2	8	9	1	5	7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/8

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

YOU NEED A GOOD MATTRESS **Solution: 8 letters**

T	M	Y	R	E	T	S	E	T	O	P	P	E	R	T
R	E	R	Z	C	I	R	B	A	F	R	A	M	E	A
O	M	C	I	O	T	E	K	N	A	L	B	L	W	E
F	O	C	H	F	C	Y	E	S	T	O	M	A	C	H
M	R	M	O	N	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	T	C	A
O	Y	A	U	V	O	L	A	S	T	L	E	E	F	K
C	R	O	P	E	E	L	S	F	P	S	R	X	E	N
O	B	F	Z	N	I	R	O	O	L	O	O	C	L	I
M	S	I	I	O	D	S	S	G	S	K	C	C	T	S
P	S	P	C	E	W	I	U	I	Y	H	I	K	N	M
R	S	T	Ⓡ	O	T	E	R	P	N	D	A	N	E	O
E	E	Ⓘ	L	I	T	A	I	B	P	G	U	P	G	T
S	Ⓐ	L	O	I	N	T	T	G	Y	O	L	A	E	S
S	I	N	A	A	U	G	O	O	H	H	R	E	L	U
P	I	L	F	X	N	Q	T	N	R	T	Y	T	S	C

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/11

Air, Back, Balance, Blanket, Bounce, Coil, Comfort, Compress, Cool, Cost, Cotton, Cover, Cozy, Custom, Dual, Fabric, Feel, Firm, Flip, Foam, Frame, Gels, Gentle, Heat, Hybrid, King, Last, Latex, Layers, Memory, Pillow, Pocket, Position, Quilt, Relax, Rotate, Sale, Shape, Single, Sink, Size, Sleep, Soft, Spine, Spring, Stomach, Support, Technology, Tester, Topper, Weight

Last Friday's answer : Treatment

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Jazz fend off Spurs despite monster game from Wembanyama

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Collin Sexton scored 23 points, Lauri Markkanen added 20 and the Utah Jazz held off the San Antonio Spurs 111-110 on Saturday, overcoming 24 points, 16 rebounds and seven blocks from Victor Wembanyama.

Markkanen stayed in the game after landing directly on his left hip with 2:44 remaining. He was down on the court for a few minutes before being helped to his feet. The 7-footer was hobbling noticeably in the final minutes.

Jordan Clarkson had 16 points and John Collins scored 15 for Utah (2-7).

San Antonio rookie Stephon Castle had a career-high 23 points in his third NBA start. Wembanyama shot 6 for 9 on 3-pointers and Castle, also 20 years old, was 3 for 7.

Spurs guard Devin Vassell had 18 points in his season debut after missing seven months with a fractured right foot.

Utah had only seven turnovers after committing 10 in the first half.

After missing his first two shot attempts, Vassell was 8 for 11 in his first game since March 29. He finished 3 for 6 on 3-pointers. San Antonio (4-6) has been without a consistent second scoring option behind Wembanyama since Vassell injured his foot.

With the Spurs trailing 107-104 and nine seconds remaining, Wembanyama ran through Clarkson on an attempted pick to possibly set up a 3-pointer for the 7-foot-3 center. Officials confirmed the foul after San Antonio challenged, resulting in Clarkson draining two free throws for a 109-104 lead.

AP
Utah Jazz's Collin Sexton (2) drives against San Antonio Spurs' Chris Paul during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, in San Antonio.

BULLS 125, HAWKS 113

ATLANTA (AP)—After trailing for the majority of the game, Chicago stormed back in the second half to defeat Atlanta, snapping a four-game losing streak on Saturday night.

Atlanta outscored Chicago 37-24 in the first quarter and led by as many as 18, but the Bulls started the fourth quarter with a 14-3 run and never looked back.

Ayo Dosunmu led the Bulls with 19 points, Nikola Vucevic added 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Zack LaVine and Coby White also scored 18. Josh Giddey scored 13 points and Patrick Williams tallied 10.

Chicago shot 50% (46 of 92) while Atlanta shot 46.1% (41 of 89).

Trae Young had his third double-double in as many games with 14 points and 16 assists, but the effort was wasted for a second game in a row. Clint Capela and Jalen Johnson led all scorers with 20 points apiece.

CAVALIERS 105, NETS 100

CLEVELAND (AP)—Evan Mobley had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell scored 22 as Cleveland rallied for a win over Brooklyn, becoming the 12th team in NBA history to start a season 11-0.

Darius Garland scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which trailed 82-68 with 35 seconds left in the third. Garland put the Cavaliers ahead for good at 97-96 with two free throws.

The 2015-16 Golden State Warriors hold the league record after winning their first 24 games. They lost to the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals.

Cam Johnson scored 23 points and Dennis Schroder and Cam Thomas had 22 apiece for the Nets. Brooklyn trailed by 15 in the second quarter, but held Cleveland to a season-low 13 points in the third with Johnson and Thomas combining for 19.

The Cavaliers failed to score 110 points for the first time, ending their NBA-record streak of doing so in 10 consecutive wins to open a season. Hall of Fame center Wilt Chamberlain and the 1960-61 Philadelphia Warriors had held the mark with nine.

CLIPPERS 105, RAPTORS 103

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—James Harden had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Norman Powell added 24 points and the Los Angeles Clippers barely hung on to beat the Toronto Raptors 105-103 on Saturday night for their fourth straight victory.

Ivica Zubac had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won three straight at Intuit Dome after starting 0-4 in their lavish new home.

Ochai Agbaji and Immanuel Quickley scored 21 points apiece for the Raptors, who have lost three straight and seven of eight.

After Quickley hit a tying 3-pointer with 39 seconds left, Powell and Harden combined to miss three of six free throws to leave the door open for Toronto. But Quickley and RJ Barrett both missed tough short shots under defensive pressure before Jakob Poeltl missed a putback attempt with 4.1 seconds left.

Kawhi Leonard still hasn't played this season while rehabilitating his right knee and won't travel on the Clippers' upcoming three-game trip, coach Tyronn Lue said.

76ers All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey out with hamstring injury

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The trio of 76ers stars looked majestic on opening night as their images covered the arena's 4K kinetic scoreboard. Joel Embiid palmed a basketball. Tyrese Maxey in the middle appeared ready to burst off the screen for a dunk. Paul George looked fierce as he squeezed a ball with both hands.

Two weeks into the season, the three have yet to play a game together, with an injury to Maxey the latest setback.

The 24-year-old Maxey has an injured right hamstring and could miss at least two weeks. The 76ers said Thursday night that Maxey, who was injured a night earlier in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers, would be re-evaluated in one week.

Maxey leads the Sixers in scoring at 27.6 points and leads the NBA with 39.7 minutes played per game. He scored 12 points in 32 minutes against the Clippers but sat out the fourth quarter.

"Not very good luck," coach Nick Nurse said Wednesday night. "We've got to hang in there and still find a way to compete and play better."

Embiid, Maxey and George were the expected anchors of a Philadelphia team that counted on this season as the one to finally make a deep run in the playoffs, all three with massive contracts to match the lofty expectations.

George bolted from the Clippers to sign a four-year, $212 million free-agent contract. Maxey, a first-time All Star last season, reached a five-year, $204 million extension. Embiid, an NBA MVP and an Olympic gold medalist, agreed to a $193 million extension.

What has all that spending on three players with 17 combined All-Star nods gotten the Sixers?

Try a 1-6 record headed into Friday's game at the Los Angeles Lakers—tied with Milwaukee and Utah for worst in the NBA.

With their stars on the bench, the 76ers already face a thorny road to the postseason—or smooth sailing toward Cooper Flagg and the draft lottery.

There have been 20 teams in NBA history to make the playoffs after starting 1-6 or 0-7, though it's been extremely rare in recent years. In the last 27 years, only three teams—the 2003-04 Miami Heat (0-7), the 2004-05 Chicago Bulls (0-7) and the 2021-22 New Orleans Pelicans (1-6) had such a start and went on to make the playoffs.

Of those three, only the Heat won a first-round series.

George, who scored 18 points and was booed by Clippers fans in his return to Los Angeles, has played only two games this season because of a bone bruise on his left knee suffered in a preseason game.

The 76ers have played all season without Embiid, both for what the team calls left knee management and because of a three-game suspension for shoving a member of the media.

The 76ers have been under more NBA investigations (two) than they have wins (one) this season.

The NBA fined the Sixers $100,000 last month for public statements, including by president of basketball operations Daryl Morey and Nurse, that were inconsistent with Embiid's health status and in violation of league rules, including the player participation policy.

Embiid was suspended three games without pay after he shouted at and eventually shoved a newspaper columnist Saturday night.

The 76ers have lost four straight. After playing the Lakers, they are back home Sunday against Charlotte and have another home game Tuesday against New York. Embiid is set to make his season debut against the Knicks in the first game of NBA Cup play.

"We've got to play better," Nurse said. "We're taking two (steps) forward and two back. We've got to develop some consistency and play a little better."

NBA BRIEFS

Kevin Durant out at least 2 weeks with left calf strain, putting damper on Suns' hot start

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant is out for at least two weeks with a left calf strain, putting a damper on a hot start to the season for the Phoenix Suns.

The Suns made the announcement Saturday, a night after the Suns beat the Mavericks 114-113 for their seventh straight victory and eighth in nine games this season. Durant scored 26 points in the victory. He'll be re-evaluated in two weeks.

The 36-year-old Durant was off to an MVP-caliber start this season through nine games, averaging 27.6 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. The 14-time All-Star was bothered by a left calf strain during the Paris Olympics this summer before helping lead the team to a gold medal.

Zion Williamson is out indefinitely with a left hamstring injury, Pelicans say

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Zion Williamson has been diagnosed with a left hamstring strain that will sideline him indefinitely, the New Orleans Pelicans announced Saturday.

The diagnosis comes one day after Williamson was scratched from the lineup for New Orleans' 115-88 loss in Orlando.

That marked Williamson's fourth missed game in 10 this season.

When Williamson has played, he has averaged 22.7 points, eight rebounds and 5.3 assists.

Since the Pelicans selected Williamson first overall out of Duke in the 2019 draft, the 6-foot-6, 284-pound power forward has missed 210 out of a possible 400 regular-season games.

New Orleans, which has lost four straight games and seven of eight, plays next at home on Monday night against the Brooklyn Nets.

Bronny James is assigned to the Lakers' G League affiliate ahead of its season opener

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Bronny James has been assigned to the Los Angeles Lakers' G League affiliate, putting him on the roster in time for the South Bay Lakers' season opener this weekend.

The Lakers announced the move Thursday for James, the 20-year-old son of LeBron James.

Bronny has played in three games for the Lakers, scoring four points in 13 combined minutes of action. LeBron and Bronny made NBA history on Oct. 22 when they became the first father and son to play together during the Lakers' season-opening win over Minnesota.

Bronny then scored his first NBA basket for the Lakers in Cleveland on Oct. 30 at the arena where he watched his father as a child.

But LeBron and the Lakers have already said Bronny will spend ample time this season with their G League affiliate as he works on his game.

Bronny survived cardiac arrest in the summer of 2023, and he played only sparingly during his one season of college basketball at Southern California before declaring for the draft last summer. Los Angeles chose him late in the second round.

The South Bay Lakers play their home games at the Lakers' training complex in El Segundo. They host the Salt Lake City Stars on Saturday night.

Jackson leads rally, and Ravens stop 2-point attempt to hold off Bengals

BALTIMORE (AP)—Facing his largest deficit in three years, Lamar Jackson led Baltimore back with another dazzling display.

He danced along the sideline on one scramble, turning a potential 20-yard loss into a 10-yard gain. He left his feet while throwing the winning touchdown pass, finding Rashod Bateman in the end zone with a flick of a wrist and a follow through that looked almost like a basketball player's.

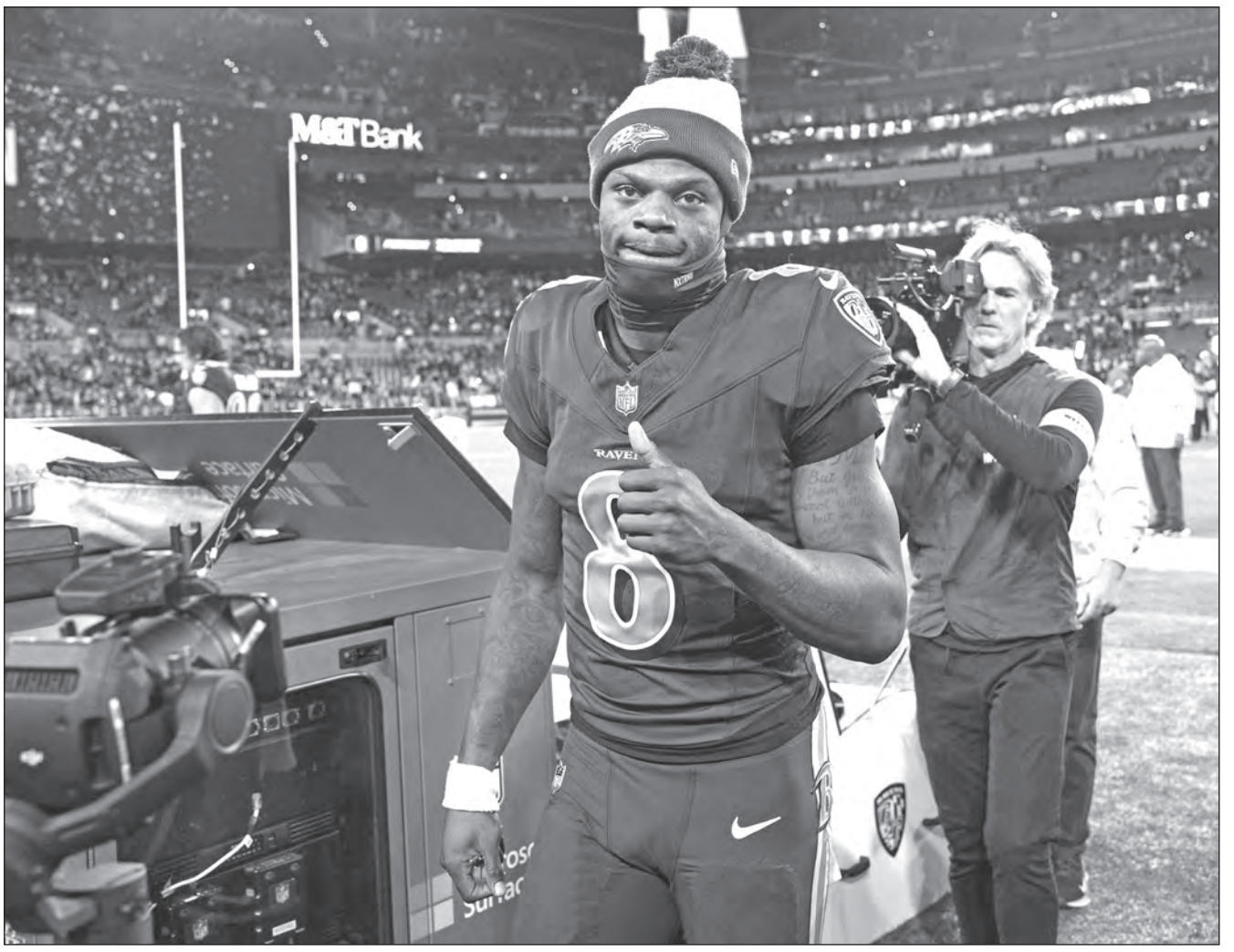
Jackson threw three fourth-quarter touchdown passes, and the Ravens stopped Cincinnati on a 2-point conversion with 38 seconds remaining to hold off the Bengals 35-34 on Thursday night. The Ravens rallied from a 21-7 third-quarter deficit, overcoming a huge game from Cincinnati receiver Ja'Marr Chase.

"It starts with Lamar, and oftentimes it ends with Lamar," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. "But in between Lamar and Lamar, there's a lot of great players out there that are surrounding him. I think that's kind of where our offense is at right now."

Baltimore had 231 of its 389 total yards in the fourth quarter.

Chase finished with 11 catches for 264 yards and three touchdowns, including a 5-yarder in the final minute to bring the Bengals (4-6) within one. Cincinnati—which lost to Baltimore in overtime last month—decided to go for 2 and the lead, and Joe Burrow's pass for Tanner Hudson sailed high.

"We had our opportunity," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "We got down there, went for two and just didn't work out for us. This team is going to continue to put us in good positions, and there's going to be a point in the season where that turns."



AP

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) walks from the field after an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, in Baltimore.

The 14-point deficit was the largest for Baltimore (7-3) since the finale of the 2022 regular season at Cincinnati—a game Jackson missed because of an injury. The last time the Ravens trailed by 14 with Jackson on the field was exactly three years earlier. On Nov. 7, 2021, Baltimore rallied from a 24-10 deficit to beat Minnesota 34-31.

Cincinnati actually had the ball while up 14 in the third, but a fumble by Chase Brown gave the Ravens a short field, and a nifty scramble along the sideline by Jackson set up Derrick Henry's 1-yard touchdown run. With the ball at the 11, Jackson dropped back and retreated all the way to the 30 before outrunning a couple rushers to the sideline, turning upfield and managing to stay in bounds all the way to the 1.

"Just trying to make something happen. That's all that was," Jackson said. "I was going to throw the ball away, but when I turned I had room."

In the fourth, Tylan Wallace turned a short pass into an 84-yard touchdown, barely staying inbounds himself as a couple of Cincinnati defenders failed to stop him. Justin Tucker missed the extra point, but the Ravens were within one.

Cincinnati drove into Baltimore territory, but on both third-and-2 and fourth-and-2, Burrow threw incomplete deep. Jackson gave the Ravens the lead with an 18-yard touchdown pass to Mark Andrews, and then the two-time MVP-winning quarterback ran himself for a 2-point conversion.

Chase beat Baltimore deep for a 70-yard touchdown that tied the game at 28 with 5:37 to play, but the Ravens answered with Jackson's 5-yard scoring toss to Rashod Bateman with 1:49 remaining to go ahead 35-28.

Jackson threw for 290 yards and four touchdowns. Burrow threw for 428 yards and four TDs.

The Ravens lost All-Pro safety Kyle Hamilton to an ankle injury late in the first half.

Cincinnati scored on a 1-yard touchdown run by Brown on the game's first drive. The Ravens thought they'd stopped the Bengals on fourth down near the goal line, but a holding call on cornerback Brandon Stephens gave Cincinnati a new set of downs.

Baltimore also burned two timeouts on that first drive, one on an unsuccessful challenge.

Jackson threw a 6-yard scoring pass to Nelson Agholor in the second, but the Bengals took the lead on a 3-yard touchdown pass from Burrow to Tanner Hudson shortly after Hamilton's injury.

The Ravens got back to around midfield at the end of the half, but by then they were out of timeouts and the clock ran out on them.

Burrow threw a 67-yard touchdown pass to Chase early in the third.

Chase had 457 yards receiving in two games against the Ravens this season, an NFL record for one player against another team.

"Honestly man it's just two great football teams going at it," Chase said. "Every time we play Baltimore it's a dog fight, the game's always close to the end."

Jackson's kneel-down on the game's final play knocked the Ravens back to 99 yards rushing. The Ravens had run for at least 100 in 42 straight games, one shy of the NFL record.

The Bengals needed a big game from Chase because receiver Tee Higgins was out with a quad injury. ... Harbaugh said Hamilton has a sprained ankle and the injury isn't too serious.

Germany's legion of NFL fans welcomes the 2-7 Giants and Panthers after Brady and Mahomes

MUNICH (AP)—Tom Brady gave Germany its first taste of the NFL in 2022. Patrick Mahomes put on a show there last year.

This Sunday, Germany gets the Carolina Panthers and New York Giants, both with 2-7 records and short of star power. However, there's still an NFL buzz around Munich.

Fans wearing caps and jerseys from almost every team in the league could be seen in the center of the city on Saturday. For Germany's growing community of NFL fans, the game means a chance to spend the weekend with people who share their passion.

Among the crowds on the historic Marienplatz square were Annika and Robert Peter, from Bonn in western Germany. They're Chiefs fans who saw the team beat the Dolphins 21-14 in Frankfurt last year, and they're going to Sunday's game to experience the NFL atmosphere a second time.

"We said that even if the Chiefs aren't here now, everything that goes with the game, the experience, is something special, too," Annika Peter said. "It's a feeling of togetherness, no matter who the fans are. It's like a big family that comes together in the city to watch these games."

As the NFL booms in international markets and sends more regular-season games overseas, there's the question of how much the quality of the product on the field really matters.

This year's game between the Giants and the Panthers—who are nominally the home team—reportedly sold out in just over 90 minutes when tickets went on sale in June. That was long before it became clear just how difficult the season would be for both teams.

However, in a sign of flagging enthusiasm from some fans, online platforms listed hundreds of tickets for resale Friday and Saturday and many were offered for around face value or even slightly less. It's far from the frenzy when Brady played at the same venue in 2022.

Another largely unsuccessful team is at the forefront of the NFL's global expansion plans. The Jacksonville Jaguars lead the league with 13 international games, all in London, since 2013, including two this season. The Jaguars have only made the playoffs twice in that time and, like the Giants and Panthers, are 2-7 this season.

Data from Sportfive, a marketing agency which works with the league, this year estimated 3.6 million Germans follow the NFL closely. Stefan Chatrath, professor of sports marketing at the University of Europe for Applied Sciences in Berlin, said the NFL's appeal in Germany skewed toward a younger demographic even if older, wealthier fans tended to buy more tickets. With time, younger fans' influence will grow, he predicted.

"It's to be expected that the full potential isn't close to being realized yet," said Chatrath, who added the teams are on the field are less important. "At the moment, the NFL brand is to the fore and that means it's something special to be at an NFL game."

One way the NFL tries to stand out from European sports is creating a sense of occasion around the game. Fans coming to Munich from across Europe are encouraged to make it a mini-vacation with NFL-themed events spread around the city. The 10 NFL teams with marketing rights in Germany have each taken over a Munich bar, some belonging to historic breweries, for fan parties and hospitality events this weekend.

The NFL's emphasis on parity gives European fans of struggling teams like the Giants and Panthers particular hope, too. Some are tired of soccer, where the richest teams tend to monopolize the titles in national competitions and the Champions League.

Boris Helleu, a senior lecturer in sports marketing at the University of Caen Normandy in France, goes to NFL games in Europe. But he's also a fan of French soccer club Caen, which has yet to win a major trophy since it was founded 110 years ago.

"We have won nothing, nothing, nothing in our history. And I am very sure that when my time will come, I will never see my local team win something," Helleu said. The NFL offers something different, he added.

"When you are a fan of a weak (NFL) team, you can strongly believe that in five years you will be able, maybe, to win a championship."

Japanese ace Sasaki to become available to MLB teams this offseason

CHIBA, Japan (AP)—Japanese ace Roki Sasaki will be available to Major League Baseball teams this offseason.

The Chiba Lotte Marines announced Saturday they have chosen to start the process of moving the pitcher to a big league club in North America via the posting system.

Sasaki, who turned 23 this month, is expected to become one of the most sought-after pitchers on the open market. The right-hander went 10-5 with a 2.35 ERA in 18 games this year, striking out 129 hitters in 111 innings.

Because he is younger than 25, Sasaki will be classified as an international amateur free agent subject to bonus pool limits, according to MLB rules. That means his first contract would be a minor league deal no larger than seven figures.

The Marines will receive a posting fee from the acquiring MLB team equal to 25% of the signing bonus.

When Shohei Ohtani agreed to join the Los Angeles Angels in December 2016 at age 23, he received a $2,315,000 signing bonus.

It's unclear yet when Sasaki will be posted, starting the 45-day clock for him to sign with a major league club. The 2024 international signing period ends Dec. 15 and the 2025 period opens Jan. 15.

AP

Roki Sasaki, of Japan pitches, during their Pool B game against the Czech Republic at the World Baseball Classic at the Tokyo Dome, Japan, Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Most teams committed most or all of their bonus pool to Latin American prospects in January. The Los Angeles Dodgers have kept the most available space left in their 2024 signing bonus pool, $2,502,500.

On the day before the World Series began, Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman refused to answer a question about the amount left open, saying: "This is outrageous. You want to talk about our hitting philosophy and the player development, seriously, this is not important for right now."

BLUE

From page 16

wrapped it up with 6 consecutive markers. Chance Reyes contributed 2.

Meanwhile, all the Knights could do was make attempts at the basket, but they could not convert as the Blue Marlins' defense didn't allow them to fully capitalize on any chance they got. Only Scott Muna landed an open shot from 3-point territory to get them on the board. However, that was all their offense could do as they ended the first half, 3-17.

The second half saw Kagman explode as the Knights could not get the handle on the ball and caused multiple turnovers. The Blue Marlins only capitalized from there and didn't give the Knights a chance at the basket until Muna scored their last 2 points of the game to make it 5-31.

The Blue Marlins consisted of Jaydon Aguon, Tristen Carino, Dominic Chipwelong, Basil Faisao, Chance Reyes, Benz Santos, Logan Palacios, Bear Murphy, Ishmael Bhuiyan, Aureya Saralu, Harley Murphy, Sarah Aguon, and Desmory Dela Cruz.

The Knights included Isaiah Villagomez, Rockson Cabrera, Thomas Flores, Brian Reyes, Jake Maratita, Scott Muna, Jace Pangelinan, Khoen Torres, Ezekiel Villagomez, Lucas Wu, Young Woo Choi, Aycee Quitugua, Jamara Cabrera, and Ava Basa.

In other results that day, Koblerville Elementary School Umangs defeated Saipan International School Geckos 1, 42-12; Garapan Elementary School Mallards 2 flew by San Vicente Elementary School Canaries, 20-2; SIS 1 blanked Grace Christian Academy Eagles, 18-0; William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers swooped past GCA, 20-10; Oleai Elementary School Turtles ran past Brilliant Star School, 18-2; WSR 1 took down SVES 2, 18-0; KobES 2 silenced Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Binadus, 30-0; and OES slipped past SIS 2, 18-16.

The next game is next Saturday, Nov. 16; Saturday, Nov. 23; and Monday, Dec. 2. The championship round is set for Dec. 5-7.

KagES 31 – Carino 13, Bhuiyan 10, Aguon 4, Reyes 2, Faisao 2.
MCS 5 – Muna 5.
Scoring by halves: 17-3, 31-5.

FORMER

From page 16

tell his ferocity playing basketball because outside the court he is quiet and very friendly. My condolences to family and especially his brother Ponce who also played the same time as Steve in Pohnpei."

Their teammates in the Brothers and national teams, Ed Diaz, said the elder Rasa was a needle-mover for the teams he suited up for.

"Steve was a very dedicated player that was very determined and was a key factor to the team. He worked hard, played good defense, and did his very best to help the team win the game. He was good at what he does in the game of basketball and was a team player as well. He played with the Brothers and also in the national team back then. To the family, my sincere condolences and he will be missed."

Another teammate in the national team, Edsel Mendoza, said he will forever cherish not only memories playing basketball with Steve, but also their longtime friendship.

"Steve and I have been good friends in the court and outside court since ever since. He's been a teammate of mine back in our days on local basketball leagues and CNMI national teams. To be honest I've been out of the basketball scene for years now and I only found out about Steve's condition through his good brother Ponce over at the cemetery two weekends ago. I was shocked about the news and felt really bad about it. All this time I thought he relocated to the States. Then hearing this news about his health really caught me off guard. I feel so guilty not visiting him that day when Ponce told me about it because I totally remember the hospital room number Ponce gave me because now, I have to live with that. But I'm happy that my brother Steve is pain free and is in a better place. RIP brother and carry on! And to Poncy, like I told you on our last chat, in my eyes you (Poncy) are a good, supportive, and loving brother and teammate to Steve. Keep your head up, life goes on, until we meet Steve again someday. Ballers for life!"

Comparing the brothers in basketball, Mendoza said unlike Ponce, Steve was calm and collected on the court.

"He has an unorthodox style but effective, when he's on fire in the court his pretty hard to stop both on offense and defense. He loves the game of basketball and respects it. When he plays, you'll see the joy in him. He is also very gracious in defeat, but rest assure he'll be back for redemption for a win. To put a little laughter in Ponce, Ponce was like picture your speedometer max speed at 300 mph, that's Ponce's pace but very passionate about being a baller for life too."

Mike Babauta, the Rasas' Hi Five teammate, also shared that Steve was a great rebounder. "His vertical leap for his height was great and also shoot the ball well from the perimeter. He was a great teammate, a good friend, and my par."

Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said despite him playing for the Sharks during their basketball heyday, there was always mutual respect between him and Steve.

"Steve and I weren't very 'close' in the sense that we never really hung out. But we were always cordial and friendly to each other whenever we did bump into each other. We'd talk basketball, of course, and as I mentioned, he was always a fierce competitor on the court. When we were very active in basketball from 1994 to 2002, when I ran the Sharks team, we always looked forward to playing against High Five from Susupe because we knew they always brought the heat. Steve and his brother Ponce, a former all-star, were always pressure players, both offense and defense. And although many a times things got heated on the court, it was always out of sheer hardcore competitiveness and having the will to win. Any other time, we always were respectful and good outside of the court, and we could hang out and have a few rounds and good talks, and we were always looking forward to the next game against each other," he said.

As for his message to the Rasa family, Alvarez said, "Ponce and his wife Marissa are active members of the Marianas Racing Association, so of course, we hang out a lot, and we were saddened to hear of his passing."

Daily mass of intentions for Steve Rasa is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6pm except for Sunday at 7am. Funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:45am to Mount Carmel Cathedral for responso, holy rosary, and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10am.

LIGHTS

From page 16

82-79.

Federallys 65 – Leung 19, Che 19, Sanchez 13, Wesley 7, Fejeran 5, Masga 2.

CUC 54 – Pangelinan 19, Nekaifes 12, Nakamura 9, Lieto 6, Langu 4, Moses 2, Arvin Daluyen 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-11, 35-25, 55-40, 65-54.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	2	.800	–
New York	4	4	.500	3
Brooklyn	4	6	.400	4
Toronto	2	8	.200	6
Philadelphia	1	7	.125	6
Southeast Division				
Charlotte	4	5	.444	–
Orlando	4	6	.400	½
Miami	3	5	.375	½
Atlanta	4	7	.364	1
Washington	2	5	.286	1
Central Division				
Cleveland	11	0	1.000	–
Indiana	4	5	.444	6
Chicago	4	6	.400	6½
Detroit	4	6	.400	6½
Milwaukee	2	7	.222	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	6	4	.600	–
Houston	5	4	.556	½
Dallas	5	4	.556	½
San Antonio	4	6	.400	2
New Orleans	3	7	.300	3
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	8	1	.889	–
Minnesota	6	3	.667	2
Denver	6	3	.667	2
Portland	3	7	.300	5½
Utah	2	7	.222	6
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	8	1	.889	–
Golden State	7	2	.778	1
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	2½
L.A. Lakers	5	4	.556	3
Sacramento	5	4	.556	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	2	0	.778	260	173
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	.333	171	183
Miami	2	6	0	.250	124	187
New England	2	7	0	.222	141	217
South						
Houston	6	3	0	.667	201	200
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	188	193
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	140	213
Jacksonville	2	7	0	.222	195	252
North						
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	187	119
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	318	253
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	270	262
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	148	213
West						
Kansas City	8	0	0	1.000	203	147
L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	.625	159	101
Denver	5	4	0	.556	183	161
Las Vegas	2	7	0	.222	168	251

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	7	2	0	.778	263	189
Philadelphia	6	2	0	.750	199	155
Dallas	3	5	0	.375	171	225
N.Y. Giants	2	7	0	.222	139	202
South						
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	221	216
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	259	243
Carolina	2	7	0	.222	147	293
New Orleans	2	7	0	.222	207	229
North						
Detroit	7	1	0	.875	258	148
Minnesota	6	2	0	.750	209	150
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	230	194
Chicago	4	4	0	.500	172	148
West						
Arizona	5	4	0	.556	207	214
L.A. Rams	4	4	0	.500	170	194
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	210	182
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	210	221

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

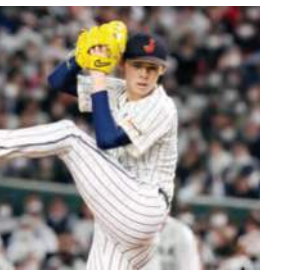
Jazz fend off Spurs despite monster game from Wembanyama

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Japanese ace Sasaki to become available to MLB teams this offseason

PAGE 15



Blue Marlins splash to 1st win in co-ed hoops

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champions Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins splashed to their first win of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League season opener on a busy day of sports last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Defending champions Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins' Tristen Carino sets up the play during their game in the season opener of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Defending champions Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins' Ishmael Bhuiyan goes for a layup as he's chased down by Mount Carmel School Knights' Thomas Flores during the season opener of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Elementary School Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In dominant fashion, they wrangled with the Mount Carmel School Knights and overpowered them, 31-5.

The Knights were no match for the much faster and more well-versed players of Kagman, as the Blue Marlins started the game strong and ended it masterfully. The Blue Marlins were locked in on the basket and made shot after shot in the first half, and controlled the ball and possession.

Kagman's Tristen Carino began the first half with 9 points, while Ishmael Bhuiyan

See BLUE on Page 15

Lights out for CUC against the Feds

LEIGH GASES

Federallys' Chris Sanchez goes up for a contested layup in their game against CUC in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federallys cut CUC's power with a 65-54 shellacking in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was a hard-fought battle between both teams that ended with a burst of energy from CUC, and a late-game surge brought them within 6 points, 59-53, with just over four minutes left. Yet, just as they seemed poised to cut the lead further, their final fast-break attempts fell short, missing pivotal chances to close the gap even more.

CUC's missed conversions in the crucial last minutes proved to be their downfall as they left the door open for the Federallys to pull further ahead again. As time ran out and as the Feds had a lead to protect, they delivered the knockout punch with several insurance points, before the final buzzer and securing a final 11-point margin.

Meanwhile, after their last-minute surge to close the double-digit Feds lead, CUC could only convert one more point from the charity line with just over a minute left.

Throughout the game, both teams played a cat-and-mouse game with the lead, but the Feds stayed just a few points ahead. Even when they faltered with errors and turnovers, they always bounced back, adding more points than they gave up.

At the end of the first quarter, CUC was behind by just 6 points, 11-17, but by halfway point, they were down by double digits, 25-35, from the Feds' camping in 3-point territory. A total of 12 points of their 18-point second quarter came from 3s that helped balloon their lead. Jeff Che basically camped downtown and was responsible for two in that quarter, while he provided one in the first. He went on to add three more in the third and collected a total of 19 points.

Terrence Leung also put up 19 markers for the Feds, while Chris Sanchez contributed 13.

CUC, though resilient and quick on their feet, found themselves frequently playing catch-up, unable to seize the lead even as they kept within a reachable distance. CUC resorted to chipping away at the lead in the third and fourth quarter from three-point territory, but it was the missed field goals and free throws that became their undoing.

Gerald Pangelinan tried to steer the team to the winning direction, but fell short even as he scored 19 points. John Nekaifes provided 12 points—all from the 3-point line, while Franko Nakamura scored nine.

In the first game of the afternoon, IT&E beat PSS,

See LIGHTS on Page 15

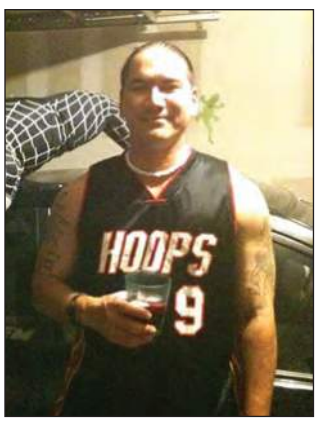
Former national player Steve Rasa passes away

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Former CNMI national basketball player Steve Rasa passed away from oral cancer last Nov. 4 at the Commonwealth Health Center. He was 49 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Laurinz Daradar Rasa, and children Peachy Josifynn Quitugua, Maria Dolores Camacho Rasa, Irving Renaldo Soto (grandson Noah Ezekiel), and Madison Rose Camacho Rasa.

Aside donning the CNMI colors in many regional tournaments, the Marianas High School alumnus, who was a mainstay in local leagues playing for teams like Hi Five and 2002 men's open basketball league champion Brothers, also made history when he scored 70 points while playing for CNMI Labor (He worked for Division of Fish and Wildlife) in the 2006 Inter-Government Basketball League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo of former national player Steve Rasa.

In that April 10, 2006, the 5'10" bruiser single-handedly outscored Department of Public Works in a 126-54 drubbing. In all, Rasa finished with 25 regular field goals, six triples, and two free throws.

Ponce Rasa said his older brother was always good in basketball and in playing sports overall.

"When it comes to the world of sports, I had a lot of catching up to do. Of course, being the younger brother, I always wanted to participate in activities my brother Steven joined. Steven was a very athletic individual he excelled in pretty much any sport he joined. He was one of the biggest reasons why I strived to be a better version of myself in the world of basketball during our playing days. I think most times you would not hear one Rasa brother without the other when it came to basketball. We started this journey playing in Susupe for team High Five, which was compromised of all friends and family."

The younger Rasa also said he was also fortunate to have played with his older brother in a couple of CNMI national basketball teams.

"The funny thing was where he went, I would follow thereafter. We had the opportunity to participate and represent the CNMI in the 1999 South Pacific Games on the island of Guam together, as well as the Micronesian Games held on our second home, the island of Pohnpei. Steve Rasa, my brother, certainly marched to the beat of his own drum. I will miss you, big brother, and I will certainly see you in the next. But for now, I will say I love you, I'll miss you, and I wish you a safe journey."

Former CNMI national coach Rufino Aguon said Steve Rasa made up for his lack of height, relative to the opposition, with grit and determination.

"I coached Steve in the Micro Games in Pohnpei I believe it was on 2002. He was very competitive and a physical player. He played as a power forward and did not back down from bigger and taller players. You can't really

See FORMER on Page 15